

Upcoming Consular Outreach Visits to Middelburg, Friesland and Groningen

During the last year we have provided Consular services (passport applications, registration of births abroad, and notarial services) outside the Consulate General in Limburg, Rotterdam and Groningen.

We will be visiting:

* Middelburg, Zeeland	April 24, 2008	6-8 pm
* Oudemirdum, Friesland	June 5, 2008	6-8 pm
* Groningen	June 12, 2008	6-8 pm

If you would like to attend, please send an email to USCitizenServicesAMS@state.gov to register, providing your name and contact details, the services required, and number of persons coming to the appointment. We will send you information about the exact location of the event closer to the relevant date. **Please ensure you have read the requirements for each service and bring all required original documents, as well as a copy of each document.**

See http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/hours_of_operation4.html for details related to each service. All payments must be done by credit card – no cash can be accepted. Also, please note that **no visa services will be provided.**

These events are possible due to the support of our hosts, who may be businesses or private individuals. If you are interested in hosting a consular outreach visit in the future (we already have hosts for the ones listed above) please contact us at

USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov

Please bear in mind that the venue should not be in the greater Amsterdam region. We are looking for sufficient space for meeting with 20-30 attendees, a separate waiting area for privacy and access to a copy machine. We look forward to receiving your e-mails!

Introduction of Appointment System for all Non-emergency American Citizen Services

The Consulate General in Amsterdam is delighted to announce the introduction of an appointment system for all non-emergency American Citizen Services cases, effective immediately. Scheduling appointments will reduce lines and wait times for American citizens and will greatly improve our ability to be of service to you. We have also introduced a dedicated queue for American Citizen Services at the Consulate General, which will facilitate entry to the Consulate.

American citizens and other clients needing to visit the Consulate General to apply for or renew passports, obtain Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, apply for extra visa pages in U.S. passports, receive notarial services (including those related to the Social Security Administration), or receive general advice or other services, will make appointments in advance to receive these services. Our hours of operation will remain the same for American Citizen Services, and we will schedule appointments daily from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM. Appointments may be scheduled approximately three months in advance.

The appointment system will ensure shorter wait times, and allow for a more efficient handling of individual cases. Although there may be periods when appointment slots fill quickly due to high demand, such as during school holidays, the Consulate General has a firm commitment to the American community in The Netherlands to make appointments available when needed. For urgent travel needs when no appointment is available, please call the American Citizen Services Unit during our telephone operating hours (1:30 to 4:30 PM), or email us at USCitizenServicesAMS@state.gov. Emergency cases will still be seen on a walk-in basis from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. After-hours, the duty officer can be reached at +31 (0)70 310 2209. Appointments are not necessary to pick up documents.

Appointments are mandatory, starting March 3, 2008. From March 3 to March 31, if applicants appear (*continued on next page*)

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER TO VOTE!

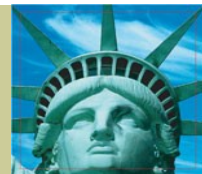
SEE THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S WEBSITE AT:

http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/voting_information.html



The Consulate General will be closed on March 21, March 24, March 26, April 30, May 1, May 2, May 12, May 26 and May 28. In cases of emergency involving American citizens outside of normal business hours, please call 070-310 2209.





without having made an appointment in advance, AND THERE ARE UNFILLED APPOINTMENT SLOTS, then they will be admitted. After March 31, ALL applicants must have appointments, except in emergency cases.

Making, changing, or cancelling appointments is free of charge. Applicants will make appointments over the internet via the Consulate General's website. Each applicant will receive an individual appointment identification number and password, guaranteeing privacy and maximum flexibility in making and cancelling appointments. The appointment system, including detailed instructions on how to make an appointment, can be accessed via our website, at:

http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/hours_of_operation4.html

Summary:	March 3 to May 31	Days for which appointments can be scheduled
	March 31	Last day on which those who appear without appointments may be seen, if scheduling allows

Any questions may be directed to us by email at USCitizenServices@state.gov or by telephone during telephone operating hours (1:30 to 4:30 PM) at +31 (0)20 575 5309.

We very much look forward to seeing you!

Introduction of Passport Services by Mail

The Consulate General is pleased to announce that we have received authorization to accept certain passport applications for adults by mail. From now on, it will be possible to use mail services to renew most adult passports, apply for additional visa pages, apply for a new passport if your name has changed through marriage or divorce, or replace an emergency passport with a regular passport.

You may take advantage of this service if all the following apply:

- Your mailing address is in the Netherlands; **and**
- You can submit your last passport; **and**
- Your last passport was not limited, i.e. it was issued with a ten year validity period; **and**
- Your last passport was issued within the last 15 years; **and**
- You were not under age 16 when your last passport was issued; **and**
- You are not requesting a change in the passport data, other than a name change due to marriage or divorce; **and**
- You are not applying for a second passport.

This service is open to those applicants who are not required to make a personal appearance at the time of application. Further, if renewing an adult passport but unable to submit the application by mail because of an urgent need to travel, you must apply during our regular hours of operation. We hope that these changes will be a major improvement to our service to American citizens in the Netherlands, and a great time-saver for all concerned!

For details and other important information, please see http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/passport_adults.html

Mark Your Calendars!

US Income Tax Information – March 11-13, 2008 A representative of the **Internal Revenue Service's Overseas Tax Assistance Program** will pay the IRS's annual visit to the Consulate General in Amsterdam on **March 11-13, 2008**, to provide information on tax law questions and how to prepare basic tax returns for wage-earners (1040EZ, 1040A, 1040, 1040-NR-EZ, and 1040-NR).

Unfortunately, all appointments have been filled. We are, however, keeping a waiting list for last-minute cancellations. Thirty minute **appointments** at the Consulate may be available from 9:00 am to 4:00pm on March 11, 12, and 13, 2008. The tax consultant will also provide consultations by telephone (also by appointment in advance) from 4:00pm–5:00pm on those days.

Appointments may be scheduled by contacting the Consulate General at USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov, regular mail, or by telephone at 020 575 5309 during the American Citizens Services Unit's telephone hours from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. Please provide times and dates on which you are available, and we will respond as to whether an appointment can be confirmed during that time.



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